

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Ad Hoc Committees Formed FENCES & GENERAL PLAN

The City Council formed two ad hoc committees this past quarter to address certain Town planning issues.

Fence Ordinance Change

The first ad hoc committee was charged with reviewing the Town's fence ordinance and defining highly visible lots and structures. The fence ordinance review was ordered after it was brought to the Council's attention that the existing fence ordinance may allow fence designs that block wildlife corridors and inhibit wildlife movement throughout the Town. In a separate but related planning project with the fence ordinance review, the Town's Open Space Committee is preparing a wildlife corridor map with the help of environmental consulting firm Live Oak Associates. The ad hoc committee also reviewed current site development standards for highly visible lots and structures. The volunteer members of this ad hoc committee include City Council member Jean Mordo (committee chair), Mayor Pro Tem Dean Warshawsky, Planning Commissioners Bart Carey and Eric Clow. The Committee's recommended ordinance revisions will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council for review and public hearings.

General Plan Update

The second ad hoc committee formed by the Council was assigned the task of reviewing and updating the Town's 1975 General Plan. Some Elements of the General Plan have already been updated including the Circulation and Housing Elements. However, other Elements including the Land Use Element are in dire need of updating to reflect the land use changes that have already occurred since 1975. Spelling and grammar errors will also be corrected. No new General Plan policies or substantive amendments to existing policies are proposed at this time. The volunteer members of this committee include City Council member Mike O'Malley (committee chair), Planning Commissioner Carl Cottrell, former Mayor and City Council member Elayne Dauber and former Planning Commissioners Carole Gottlieb, Dot Schreiner and Janet Vitu.

Possible New Energy Ordinance

In the next several months, the Planning Commission and City Council will also consider a new energy ordinance recommended by the Town Environmental Initiatives Committee that will require new homes to be ENERGY STAR qualified. ENERGY STAR qualified homes are independently verified to be at least 15% more energy efficient than homes built to California's Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24). Incentives for solar energy production will also be considered.

— Carl Cahill, Planning Director



Planning Director Carl Cahill

Editor's Message

DONOR WALL UPDATE

As we look forward to our 50th Golden Anniversary of the founding of our Town, we are so fortunate to reside in a community that can celebrate our past (ups & downs) and look forward to a creative future. Our city council is on threshold of developing new initiatives for the environment and to make new technology available for our vibrant community that demands we "keep up" with the state of the scientific and technical world. We are so lucky to live in this vibrant community. Plan to join with your neighbors to celebrate our 50th Anniversary Gala on January 27, 2006!



Looking Back at 2005 - Community Donor Wall

One of our Town's big achievements for 2005 was the completion of the New Town Hall and The Community Donor Wall. Yes, There is still time to donate a tile. If you haven't completed your tile, we ask that you do so in the next two months by going to our contract studio in Palo Alto. The studio is CREATE IT! Located at 299 California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (on same side as Kinko's), Telephone: 650-323-1515, Hours: Monday-Saturday: 11AM-8PM or Sunday: 11AM-5PM; Owner: Valerie Gornaia.

If you have not donated a tile and wish to do so, please *stop by Town Hall and pick up a form to donate*. We will be installing tiles on a quarterly basis until the wall is completed. Should you have any questions, please contact Duffy Price at (650) 948-0596 or email to duffy@duffysmail.com

Again, thank you for your participation in this very successful Community Legacy Donor Wall project.

Sincerely,

— Duffy Price



CELL PHONE TOWER APPROVED

At the November 3, 2005 city council meeting a 3-0 vote of the council members approved the permit for the installation of a cell tower at the Westwind Barn area. (Two council members recused due to a potential conflict of interest.) A 289-square foot equipment shed will be next to the tower.

Cell phone representatives indicated that the tower would improve service for a radius of approximately one mile around the site.